



Included in this issue:

Director's Reports...p. 1-2
New Hire...p. 2
NR Specialist Report... p. 2-3 & 9
Environmental Updates...p. 4
Air Quality Report...p. 5
Water Quality Report...p. 5
GAP Report... p. 6
NALEMP News...p.7
THPO Report...p. 7
Range Manager's Report ...p. 8
Conservation News ...p. 8
Planning Program Report ...p. 9
Directory... p.10

Director's Report
By: Adam Ringia

Happy Spring!

It sure feels like Spring, even if we need to wait another month before it is official. Being from the great white north (Michigan), I'm not used to temperatures in the 70's in February – even if I have been here for a decade or so.

Here at ENRD we've had a busy winter, we provided a couple of cords of wood to each of the villages from our thinning projects up in and around the Silver Dollar Park (and are about to expand the program with another five Pueblo members); rehired a former staff member to fill the EPA General Assistance Program Specialist position (p. 2); are starting the process to hire a Realty Specialist to fill the Realty Office that we contracted from the BIA; conducted several cultural and resource surveys for projects on Laguna; continued development of the THPO office; and completed the annual aerial big game surveys.



Additionally, ENRD is working to improve the water distribution out in the wilds and on the range for improved wildlife and livestock use, we are improving spring conditions, installing solar mills to replace high maintenance windmills, and installing wildlife drinkers in remote locations. We look forward to addressing some boundary fence, trespass livestock and horse issues, and other rangeland problems over the next year.

Climate Change

What is the difference between Climate and Weather?

Weather is what you are experiencing on a daily basis, Climate is the highs and lows and averages, rainfall and snowfall, wind and cloud cover over time. Climate is much harder to see changes in than weather. Although climate change is a hot topic among politicians and the federal government spends a lot of money on it, people across the country don't seem to care. People don't care for a variety of reasons including: 1) They don't believe it; 2) they don't understand the risks or impacts; 3) they don't think that they can do anything about it; or 4) They blame it on others and presume that others will fix the problem.

If you don't believe that climate change is happening, despite the vast majority of scientists agreement on the subject, I will never convince you. If you don't believe that it is human-caused, I don't really think that matters. The global temperature is going up, and no matter if you like it warm, that change will affect a lot of things that Laguna cares about.

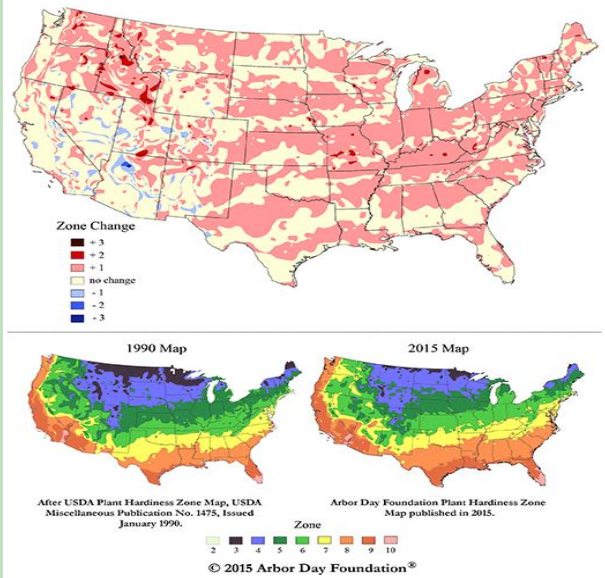
Water – there will be less of it. Some years we get more rain, others get less. That won't change, but what will change is how it is available. Laguna is used to getting a fair amount of snow melt from Mt. Taylor – but warmer winters mean less snow to be released slowly. Warmer weather also means more snow and other surface water evaporate more quickly, meaning there will be less to share overall – and Laguna (Mesita in particular) is at the bottom of a watershed, and will experience the most impact of upstream users.

Weather – The timing of precipitation and how it falls is likely to change, this may impact farming practices, and what will grow here in Laguna.

Plant life – Culturally important plants may no longer live here or may die out entirely. There is already substantial pressure on some plants due to higher temperatures. Trees like Douglas Fir are being pushed higher up the mountains. The trees that don't die outright are more highly stressed, which results in an increased likelihood of disease or insect infestation.

Wildlife and Livestock – Changing plants impacts our wildlife, stressed plants aren't as healthy or grow as well. This results in less food for Laguna's game animals and livestock.

Differences Between 1990 USDA Hardiness Zones and 2015 Arborday.org Hardiness Zones



Director's Report Climate Change cont.

These are just a few of the near term impacts that are likely to occur as a result of global climate change. It won't happen all at once, but stopping the change is hard and also takes time, and takes a global effort. There are many things you can do to help, even if it doesn't feel like it makes a difference:

- Reduce, Reuse, recycle
- Use less heat and air conditioning (use better insulation)
- Use Energy efficient products (CFL or LED lights, efficient appliances, etc...)
- Switch to green energy if you can.

To meet this global challenge, we will all need to help.

New Hire: Dorothy Beecher Welcome Back!

I am back!!

Hello, everyone. I am very happy to be back at the Environmental and Natural Resources Department. I stepped away for a while to pursue another career, but found out that I really missed doing what I love taking care of "Mother Earth". The community looks great! Please stop by my office at the ENRD adjacent to the Kawaika Center or email me at dbeecher@lagunapueblo-nsn.gov with any environmental concerns.

See ya around!!

*Dorothy Beecher
Environmental Specialist*

***Natural Resource Report***

by: Raymond Lucero

Greetings Everyone,

I hope you are all having a great year. I would like to thank everyone that participated in the 2015-2016 hunting season and for also turning in your harvest reports. I understand that at times it is a pain to fill out the harvest reports and turn them in, but it helps us to create a management plan for next year's harvest. It also helps us to not deplete what our creator has provided for us to carry on traditions that were passed down from each generation on hunting preparation and cultural significance. I am honored in what I do, issuing out permits to tribal and non-tribal members to hunt on the beautiful lands that we call home. Whether you were not successful on your hunt, or you were successful, you have made a contribution to the Natural Resource Program. I have added some pictures of the 2015-2016 harvest that were submitted to the ENRD office. (p. 3).

Congratulations to all the successful hunters and I hope everyone applies for the upcoming 2016-2017 hunting season. If you have any questions or concerns you can contact me at (505)552-7512.

Aerial Survey

The ENRD has successfully completed their annual big game survey second week of February. Although we did not have time to fly every section of every unit, (we covered about two-thirds of the rez), we were still able to see wildlife and collect enough data to assist us in harvest management for each unit. We were also able to locate wood harvesting sites and see where boundary fences need to be repaired.

Natural Resource Report cont.

Big Game Hunt 2015-16



2016 Aerial Survey



ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES**By: Greg Jojola, Environmental Manager*****Happy Easter season to everyone!***

It's been a nice wet winter here in Laguna and we hope our springs and aquifers have been recharged somewhat. We are at that time of the year when we re-apply for our EPA grants. We will once again be submitting our General Assistance Program (GAP) grant, Clean Water Act Section 103 grant, Clean Air Act section 106 grant. NALEMP is a two year grant and will continue through 2016.

The water program will be conducting its second round of sampling starting at the end of the month. We have modified our sampling sites somewhat this year. Some remote sites, like the upper Rio Puerco, do not always have enough water to sample or it may be too turbid for our monitoring equipment. So we've opted to shift to sites that are more beneficial for our purposes. No major issues to report regarding our surface waters and springs throughout the reservation. Staff is looking into the possibility of applying for an EPA 319 grant that would allow us to do some stream or spring restoration projects.

We're also moving towards cleaning up the old bus barn here at the old LA high school campus. Underground fuel tanks from the 1980s have caused an undetermined amount of contamination in the area. There is an MOA that is near to completion. The parties include Laguna, EPA, NMED and the Grants Cibola County School District (GCCSD).

GCCSD is the responsible party and will be responsible for acquiring funding for the clean-up. Our office will monitor the process closely.

Also, please report any illegal dumping activities or illegal dump sites to our office. Thank you for your assistance.

KEEP OUR LANDS LOOKING BEAUTIFUL!

Our mission statement: To monitor and protect the environmental quality of Pueblo air, land, and water for the benefit of Pueblo member health and the future generations; while building capacity and providing comprehensive environmental services to the Pueblo.

**Recycle Trailer Schedule****MARCH 2016**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**PLEASE SORT YOUR RECYCLABLES**

Air Quality Report

By: Vince Rodriguez, Air Quality Technician

Another year is upon us and Environmental Program is set to go for another productive year. The Air Quality project in 2015 has continued its association with New Mexico Tech in Socorro collecting dust samples at the Jackpile mine and surrounding area. Collection is done once every quarter of the year and analyzed to see what's in the air whether it's uranium dust particles or just regular dust. This is important because the results will let us know what is being carried in the air and what we may be breathing.

For 2016, we will continue the same program with dust collection but an addition has been put in place. New Mexico Tech has been able to set up a monitoring system to collect data such as wind speed, barometric pressure, and temperature (picture below).

With the field work that has been going on, training has been important part of this program. In June of 2015, I completed "Introduction to Air Quality" and last week just completed "Air Quality Computations" with more training on the way. The Air Quality Program will continue to keep the community informed on the latest news. Make every breath of air count.



Water Quality Report

By: Deborah Anyaibe, Water Quality Specialist

This month the Water Quality Program will begin its second round of surface water sampling of Fiscal Year 2016. We will be testing the water in and around the Pueblo for Physical Parameters such as Temperature, specific conductance, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, salinity, and total dissolved solids. These parameters help us gauge the health of the water and lets us identify any problem areas. Some sites are tested for additional analytical parameters such as nitrogen, phosphorous, E.coli and uranium. Uranium is tested for specifically around and downstream of the Jackpile mine site in order to monitor levels over time and plan remediation measures as necessary. These analytical parameters help us to better understand the chemical make-up of our waters and help us to identify where remediation efforts may be currently necessary, as well as identifying levels to keep an eye on for future remediation efforts.

If you have any question about current surface water sampling or results please don't hesitate to visit ENRD.



General Assistance Program Report

By: Loren Arkie

COMING SOON
TO A VILLAGE NEAR YOU..
2016 Earth Day

DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD



Additional
information will be provided in
the April Towncrier.

POL Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program News***By: Sabin Chavez***

Greetings!

The Pueblo of Laguna NALEMP has completed all contractual tasks within the FY16 Cooperative Agreement “*MEC Investigation for Eidson Ranch, Site Investigation for KAFB PBR 14, Target S-1, and JATO Site No. 2 Removal and Disposal/MEC Surface Clearance*”. All final reports for all three sites have been submitted to the United States Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District office and Pueblo of Laguna NALEMP office. During POL NALEMP’s quarterly meeting in September 2015, POL NALEMP Specialist requested thru the USACE ABQ District, NALEMP Program Manager if an optional task under the current Cooperative Agreement could be exercised under this CA. The request was granted.

Pueblo of Laguna NALEMP will be addressing JATO Site No. 1, which is located in the Sedillo Range Management Unit. The Scope of Work for this project is removal and disposal of JATO bottles, the “draft” work plan has been developed and submitted for review and comments. Projected field work is first week in March 2016, weather permitting. The task is scheduled to be completed by May. Pictures below are JATO bottles which will be addressed during the field work.

***Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Report******By: Gaylord Siow***

GUUWADZEE!

The Pueblo of Laguna THPO program has completed its first full fiscal year for FY 2015. The POL THPO is now a certified Tribal Historic Preservation Office as of October 19, 2015. The office received an official notice from the National Park Service letting us know that we are now 1 of 158 tribes to establish such an office. Tribal Council has approved the FY 2016 budget submitted to Budget & Finance based on the need and services delivered in 2015.

POL THPO program continue to work with its Advisory Board as well as other Tribal Departments such as NALEMP, Planning, GAD and ENRD.

Towards the end of 2015 the THPO was tasked to assist the Planning Office in the finalization of Environmental Assessments and other necessary documentation to move the Bike/Ped trails design forward.

In January 2016 the THPO supported NALEMP to identify an area in the Sedillo Range Unit for work to be completed on JATO Site No. 1. THPO also continues to attend Water Rights Negotiation meetings on behalf of the Pueblo.



Rangeland Program News***By: Richard Bonine, Jr. Rangeland Manager***

I had the opportunity to fly over most of the Range Management Units this past week. Flying gives one an entirely new prospective on our rangelands. I noted areas that are still attempting to recover from the drought. Additional corrective actions may also be needed such as reductions in herd size. The Rangeland Program is considering plans to remove the stray and feral livestock from Pueblo of Laguna lands. Maintaining our ground cover above 25 percent is critical to control wind and water erosion.

I would encourage each of the livestock associations to discuss among themselves drought contingency plans. The U.S. Drought Monitor indicates El Nino has peaked and going into late June forward we will be in a La Nina precipitation regime. We will need to see how the monsoon season transpires, but if it goes as predicted, reductions in herd size will most likely need to occur. I will be in contact with each of the Livestock Association Presidents in the next couple of weeks to discuss your contingency plans.

Since the 1st of the year, the Rangeland Program has converted three windmills to solar. We have plans to convert several more, pending funding. Converting windmills to solar generates significant savings in maintenance cost and provides a more reliable source of water.

Please contact us if you have any questions. We are here to serve your needs!

Conservation News by: Sgt. Ray Soto

Hello All,

The hunting season is over; Laguna hunters had a successful 2015 overall. All the precipitation last year, made for lush conditions and water throughout the reservation. It was good for our wildlife and livestock but made finding the animals difficult. You can increase your odds of harvesting by taking the small steps to be successful; scouting, the use of trail cameras, proper rifle/bow maintenance as well as practice and a high level of fitness. It is said, "Harvesting is being prepared, when the opportunity presents itself." Know your limitations and those of your hunting party, vehicle etc. Know your hunting unit and its boundaries. We had several cases of hunters both Native and Non-Native out of bounds. Avoid losing your vehicle and gear; know where you are at all times.

The new proclamations will be out soon. It's time to organize and plan for the 2016-2017 hunts. Enjoy the outdoors, be safe and take a young person hunting with you.



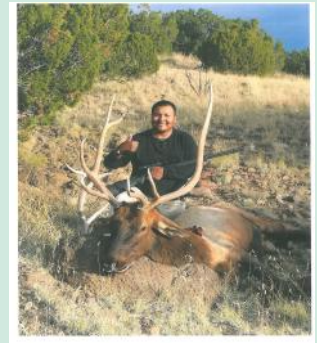
Mike Saavedra



Robert Kim

Natural Resources cont.**Big Game Hunt 2015-16**

Ron Chaffins



Chris Lucero

Associate Planner Report by: Elroy Keetso

For this issue of *On the Wind*, the Planning Program would like to shed some light on the Pueblo's Capital Improvement Plan or CIP.

The Pueblo of Laguna Council adopted the CIP policy in August of 2010. The CIP lists all capital improvement projects that are currently ongoing or proposed here on the Pueblo's land. Capital improvement projects are a single unit or improvement costing five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) or more that plans, designs, or constructs a building, infrastructure, or other facility, or that purchases or installs vehicles, equipment, or property. The CIP helps the Pueblo Council allocate its resources such as funding and staff time to these capital improvement projects. The CIP also gives the Pueblo of Laguna departments and villages access to funding from the Council through the debt service fund and other outside sources like grants.

The Environmental and Natural Resources Department (ENRD) has several capital improvement projects listed in the CIP. Some of these projects are underway and some are just proposals. The ENRD Building construction was completed in 2014. The new building allows the entire staff of ENRD to be under one roof with a suitable yard to store equipment and machinery. The building is centrally located in the Pueblo, right next to the K Center.

The Silver Dollar boundary fence project is aimed at replacing the exterior boundary fence and creating an ATV maintenance road around the property. This fence repair will help decrease incidence of trespass and loss of wildlife due to poaching and will promote better neighbor relations.

The Seama Irrigation Reservoir repair project would construct a liner and make structural improvements to the reservoir. Repairing the reservoir will allow the Pueblo of Laguna to store water and schedule irrigation water releases. This project will benefit up to two hundred farmers that depend on water from the Rio San Jose watershed to irrigate approximately 4,600 acres of farmland. A preliminary engineering report has been completed for the project and the ENRD is seeking funding for construction.

The Irrigation and Irrigable Lands Survey project has surveyed the irrigation systems and lands that are irrigated in the Pueblo. The information from the project will help the pueblo plan for future irrigation infrastructure improvements and assist the villages to get back to farming.

Each of the POL departments, entities, villages and outside agencies update their capital improvement projects each year. The CIP process starts every Spring around February and ends in August of each year. The CIP policy requires that Council adopt the CIP plan by resolution before August 31st of each year.



Elroy Keetso

**Environmental and Natural Resources
Department (ENRD)**

505-552-7512 or 505-552-7546
Fax No: 552-9770

Kawaik'a Center
22 Bay Tree Road, Building B
Paraje NM 87007

Adam Ringia
ENRD Director
552-5051

Georgia Martinez
Administrative Assistant II
552-5050

Gaylord Siow
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
552-5046

Mailing address:
Pueblo of Laguna
Environmental & Natural
Resources
PO Box 194
Laguna, NM 87026

www.lagunapueblo-nsn.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

Gregory Jojola
Environmental Program Manager
552-5041

Deborah Anyaible
Water Quality Specialist
552-5040

Dorothy Beecher
Environmental Specialist
552-5043

Vacant
Air Quality Specialist
552-5042

Loren Arkie
Environmental Technician
552-5049

Vince Rodriguez
Environmental Laborer
552-5043



**N.A.L.E.M.P. and
RECLAMATION PROGRAM**

Sabin Chavez
NALEMP Specialist
552-5045



Rangeland Management Program

Richard Bonine, Jr.
Rangeland Manager
552-5055

Delbert Siow
Rangeland Technician
552-5057

Nevin Garcia, Sr.
Rangeland Technician
552-5057

Billy Delores
Rangeland Technician
552-5056

Ray Konico, Jr.
Rangeland Technician
552-5056

Aaron Lorenzo, Sr.
Rangeland Technician
552-5056



**NATURAL RESOURCES
PROGRAM**

Raymond Lucero, Jr.
Acting Natural Resources Manager
552-5052

Vacant
Natural Resources Specialist
552-5053

Donald Sarracino
NR Technician II/Dam Tender
552-5054

Robert Natseway
NR Technician I
552-5054

Harold Analla, Quentin Deloris,
Francis Trujillo, Sr. and Alex
Romero, Jr.
Thinning Crew

A courtesy reminder of the importance of sorting your recyclables from your everyday household trash before placing in the recycling bins. Your help and effort is greatly appreciated!